



MEDIA RELEASE

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Chewelah Receives Grant for Two Police Cars

Chewelah---The U.S. Department of Agriculture is alleviating the financial burden of upgrading emergency response vehicles for the city by providing a much needed grant. The funding is a win-win situation for area residents.

Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director of USDA Rural Development recently announced the award of a grant for \$36,000, which will help purchase two new police vehicles. Currently, two of Chewelah's patrol cars are entering the high mileage category and should be replaced to insure reliable service to the citizens of the community and to improve the overall safety for the officers driving the vehicles.

Chewelah has already been hard hit by the recent closure of Northwest Alloys, an Alcoa plant that employed over three hundred people. The closure had wide-reaching impacts on the local economy and overall tax base for the community. The grant will lessen the financial burden to the citizens of Chewelah by avoiding the costly process of issuing a General Obligation Bond in order to finance the vehicles. The funding represents new emergency response vehicles for the safety of residents, without the tax bill to go along with it.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity, liquidity, and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA Rural Development's Washington State web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>.###